

Table B-1  
Summary of Claims Activity, Department of Labor Black Lung Program,  
FY 1996 and Cumulative, July 1, 1973-September 30, 1996

Claim Category	Initial Decisions - DCMWC Level (FY 1996 Only)			Cumulative Decisions - DCMWC Level 1/ (July 1, 1973 - September 30, 1996)				Cumulative Decisions - All Levels 2/ (July 1, 1973 - September 30, 1996)				
	Approved 1	Denied 0	Total Decisions 1	Approval Rate (%) 100.0	Approved 55,007	Denied 64,721	Pending 0	Approval Rate (%) 45.9	Approved 56,254	Denied 63,575	Total Decisions 119,829	Approval Rate (%) 46.9
SECTION 435 claims filed 7/1/73 - 2/28/78												
SECTION 727 claims filed 3/1/78 - 3/31/80	0	0	0	-	21,071	41,230	0	33.8	20,511	41,808	62,319	32.9
SECTION 718 (PRE) claims filed 4/1/80 - 12/31/81	0	0	0	-	3,551	29,075	0	10.9	4,162	28,465	32,627	12.8
SECTION 718 (POST) claims filed 1/1/82 - present	370	5,222	5,592	6.6	5,952	109,217	1,490	5.2	8,730	106,441	115,171	7.6
PART B DENIALS denied claims inherited from SSA	1	0	1	100.0	20,829	46,131	0	31.1	21,977	44,995	66,972	32.8
SSA APPROVALS claims approved by SSA under the 1977 amendments	0	0	0	-	15,920	705	0	95.8	15,922	703	16,625	95.8
Subtotal	372	5,222	5,594	6.6	122,330	291,079	1,490	29.6	127,556	285,987	413,543	30.8
MEDICAL ONLY	0	4	4	0.0	117,636	790	0	99.3	116,701	1,725	118,426	98.5
Grand Total	372	5,226	5,598	6.6	239,966	291,869	1,490	45.1	244,257	287,712	531,969	3/ 45.9

1/ Includes the most recent decision (e.g., after a reconsideration or an informal conference).

2/ Refers to the most recent decision, any level (DCMWC, ALJ, BRB, etc.).

3/ This figure differs from the total number of claims received shown in Table B-2 because prior filings by the same individual which were denied are excluded.

Table B-2

## Distribution of Black Lung Claims and Disbursements, by State, FY 1996

State	Total Claims Received 1/	MBO Claims 2/	In Payment 3/	Total Benefits (\$ 000) 4/
Alabama	30,011	693	2,286	\$14,839
Alaska	131	0	15	95
Arizona	1,830	53	284	1,849
Arkansas	3,768	133	441	2,863
California	6,412	105	708	4,594
Colorado	6,705	147	971	6,300
Connecticut	1,077	32	152	986
Delaware	746	22	132	856
District of Columbia	300	4	33	215
Florida	11,137	446	1,658	10,757
Georgia	1,431	50	233	1,514
Hawaii	16	0	5	30
Idaho	221	3	24	155
Illinois	29,166	569	3,089	20,045
Indiana	17,070	331	1,677	10,882
Iowa	5,048	78	607	3,939
Kansas	2,158	25	226	1,469
Kentucky	75,289	3,476	8,602	55,815
Louisiana	321	7	40	259
Maine	41	1	8	50
Maryland	6,726	129	775	5,029
Massachusetts	242	3	35	225
Michigan	10,307	116	1,049	6,806
Minnesota	135	3	30	195
Mississippi	332	7	48	310
Missouri	4,505	34	505	3,278
Montana	827	25	85	550
Nebraska	113	0	12	80
Nevada	377	7	62	402
New Hampshire	25	0	5	30
New Jersey	4,651	69	645	4,187
New Mexico	2,204	51	262	1,700
New York	4,408	55	541	3,512
North Carolina	2,856	112	449	2,913
North Dakota	164	0	24	155
Ohio	51,182	987	6,067	39,365
Oklahoma	3,667	110	394	2,558
Oregon	608	11	82	530
Pennsylvania	132,836	5,038	21,992	142,697
Rhode Island	44	0	6	39
South Carolina	701	27	137	889
South Dakota	46	2	8	50
Tennessee	18,717	750	1,843	11,961
Texas	1,556	28	250	1,624
Utah	3,678	107	497	3,223
Vermont	39	1	4	25
Virginia	35,802	1,793	5,542	35,958
Washington	1,546	23	206	1,336
West Virginia	98,123	4,444	13,798	89,527
Wisconsin	421	9	50	324
Wyoming	2,270	25	346	2,243
All Other	1,569	5	60	389
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>583,555</b>	<b>20,146</b>	<b>77,000</b>	<b>\$499,622</b>

1/ All filings since July 1, 1973, including terminated and nonapproved claims.

2/ Active MBO claims as of 9/30/96.

3/ Active claims currently in payment status, excluding MBO claims, as of 9/30/96.

4/ Disbursements of income and medical benefits for all claims, including claims paid by the Trust Fund and claims in interim pay status.

**Table B-3**  
**Black Lung Claims, by Class of Beneficiary, FY 1987 - FY 1996 1/**

Class of Beneficiary	Number of Beneficiaries 2/									
	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
<b>Primary Beneficiaries:</b>										
Miners	57,095	54,920	52,258	49,306	46,450	43,723	40,866	37,970	35,220	32,452
Widows	40,346	41,607	42,691	43,404	43,831	43,967	44,103	44,073	43,688	43,155
Others	983	1,043	1,095	1,148	1,179	1,225	1,280	1,332	1,362	1,393
<b>TOTAL PRIMARY BENEFICIARIES</b>	<b>98,424</b>	<b>97,570</b>	<b>96,044</b>	<b>93,858</b>	<b>91,460</b>	<b>88,915</b>	<b>86,249</b>	<b>83,375</b>	<b>80,270</b>	<b>77,000</b>
<b>Dependents of Primary Beneficiaries:</b>										
Dependents of Miners	52,721	50,027	46,748	43,593	40,410	37,592	34,758	32,013	29,377	26,845
Dependents of Widows	2,189	2,081	1,989	1,895	1,831	1,751	1,710	1,668	1,614	1,558
Dependents of Others	435	445	508	508	504	503	496	513	508	520
<b>TOTAL DEPENDENTS</b>	<b>55,345</b>	<b>52,553</b>	<b>49,245</b>	<b>45,996</b>	<b>42,745</b>	<b>39,846</b>	<b>36,964</b>	<b>34,194</b>	<b>31,499</b>	<b>28,923</b>
<b>TOTAL, ALL BENEFICIARIES</b>	<b>153,769</b>	<b>150,123</b>	<b>145,289</b>	<b>139,854</b>	<b>134,205</b>	<b>128,761</b>	<b>123,213</b>	<b>117,569</b>	<b>111,769</b>	<b>105,923</b>

1/ As of September 30 of each year.

2/ Active claims, including those paid by a RMO, cases paid by the Trust Fund, cases in interim pay status, cases that are being offset due to concurrent Federal or state benefits, and cases that have been temporarily suspended. Does not include MBO beneficiaries.

**Table B-4**  
**Department of Labor Black Lung Benefits Program Obligations, FY 1987 - FY 1996**  
(\$ thousands)

Type of Obligation	Fiscal Year									
	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Total Obligations	\$655,290	\$656,689	\$650,123	\$626,521	\$942,428	\$973,636	\$984,666	\$994,655	\$995,722	\$992,128
Total Benefits 1/	605,718	601,972	593,948	573,360	566,364	574,850	562,035	554,349	525,563	499,622
Income Benefits 2/	483,245	483,825	471,145	453,225	450,011	452,581	448,395	444,276	423,736	404,623
Medical Benefits 3/	122,473	118,147	122,803	120,135	116,353	122,269	113,640	110,073	101,827	95,000
Administrative Costs 4/	49,572	54,717	56,175	53,161	52,422	56,314	56,016	52,550	51,502	47,314
Interest Charges 5/	0 6/	0 6/	0 6/	0 6/	323,642	342,472	366,616	387,756	418,656	445,192
Repayable Advances 7/	67,776	41,274	55,852	155	216,642	340,329	343,000	413,925	375,100	373,500
<b>Cumulative Debt 8/</b>	<b>\$2,951,780</b>	<b>\$2,993,054</b>	<b>\$3,048,906</b>	<b>\$3,049,061</b>	<b>\$3,265,703</b>	<b>\$3,606,032</b>	<b>\$3,949,032</b>	<b>\$4,362,957</b>	<b>\$4,738,057</b>	<b>\$5,111,557</b>

1/ Reimbursements to RMOs are included.

2/ Monthly and retroactive benefit payments.

3/ Includes diagnostic and treatment costs, and reimbursements to the Health Care Financing Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Health and Retirement Funds of the UMWA.

4/ Administrative expenses include reimbursements to SSA.

5/ Starting in 1979, the Trust Fund had to borrow funds from the Treasury Department to pay claims. Interest charges reflect the cost to the Trust Fund for those advances from the Treasury.

6/ The Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 imposed a five-year moratorium on the accrual of interest on all Trust Fund repayable advances from October 1, 1985, through September 30, 1990.

7/ Reflects advances from the Treasury Department during the fiscal year.

8/ Shows the cumulative debt of the Trust Fund to the Treasury.

Note: Detail may not add to totals due to rounding.

**Table B-5**  
**Monthly Black Lung Benefit Rates, 1973 - 1996**

Period	Benefit Rates by Type of Beneficiary			
	Claimant	Claimant and 1 Dependent	Claimant and 2 Dependents	Claimant and 3 or More Dependents
7/1/73-9/30/73	\$169.80	\$254.70	\$297.10	\$339.50
10/1/73-9/30/74	177.60	266.40	310.80	355.20
10/1/74-9/30/75	187.40	281.10	328.00	374.80
10/1/75-9/30/76	196.80	295.20	344.40	393.50
10/1/76-9/30/77	205.40	308.10	359.50	410.80
10/1/77-9/30/78	219.90	329.80	384.80	439.70
10/1/78-9/30/79	232.00	348.00	405.90	463.90
10/1/79-9/30/80	254.00	381.00	444.50	508.00
10/1/80-9/30/81	279.80	419.60	489.60	559.50
10/1/81-9/30/82	293.20	439.80	513.10	586.40
10/1/82-12/31/83	304.90	457.30	533.60	609.80
1/1/84-12/31/84 1/	317.10	475.60	554.90	634.20
1/1/85-12/31/86	328.20	492.30	574.30	656.40
1/1/87-12/31/87	338.00	507.00	591.50	676.00
1/1/88-12/31/88	344.80	517.20	603.40	689.60
1/1/89-12/31/89	358.90	538.30	628.10	717.80
1/1/90-12/31/90	371.80	557.70	650.60	743.60
1/1/91-12/31/91	387.10	580.60	677.40	774.10
1/1/92-12/31/92	403.30	605.00	705.80	806.60
1/1/93-12/31/93	418.20	627.30	731.90	836.40
1/1/94-12/31/94	427.40	641.10	748.00	854.80
1/1/95-12/31/95	427.40	641.10	748.00	854.80
<b>1/1/96-12/31/96</b>	<b>435.10</b>	<b>652.70</b>	<b>761.50</b>	<b>870.20</b>

1/ These benefit rates include the additional one-half percent increase that was granted retroactive to January 1, 1984. The rates in effect prior to the retroactive payments (1/1/84 through 6/30/84) were: \$315.60 for a claimant only; \$473.30 for a claimant and 1 dependent; \$552.20 for a claimant and 2 dependents; and, \$631.10 for a claimant and 3 or more dependents.

**Table B-6**  
**Funding and Disbursements of the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund, FY 1996**  
**(thousands of dollars)**

Month	Funding				Disbursements						
	Coal Excise Tax Revenue	Treasury Advances	Reimburse. 1/	Total	Income Benefits 2/	Medical Benefits		Total Benefits	Admin. Costs	Interest on Advances	Total
						Diagnostic	Treatment 3/				
October 1995	\$51,949	\$0	\$694	\$52,643	\$34,134	\$204	\$5,683	\$40,020	\$3,915	\$0	\$43,935
November 1995	51,501	0	644	52,145	34,217	244	9,041	43,501	3,766	0	47,267
December 1995	51,501	0	417	51,918	33,923	261	7,584	41,768	1,624	0	43,392
January 1996	41,104	0	1,138	42,242	33,341	131	7,688	41,161	3,602	0	44,763
February 1996	53,328	0	1,738	55,066	32,403	196	10,642	43,240	6,418	0	49,658
March 1996	44,188	0	669	44,857	35,877	154	5,755	41,787	3,997	0	45,784
April 1996	52,074	0	561	52,635	33,678	155	7,965	41,797	3,561	0	45,358
May 1996	50,816	0	693	51,509	33,366	150	7,751	41,267	4,279	0	45,546
June 1996	50,816	0	532	51,348	33,814	249	9,555	43,618	4,130	0	47,747
July 1996	48,028	0	803	48,831	33,238	162	7,197	40,597	4,022	0	44,619
August 1996	50,356	0	770	51,126	33,310	249	8,424	41,983	4,001	0	45,983
September 1996	68,819	373,500	782	443,101	33,323	144	5,417	38,883	4,000	445,192	488,075
TOTALS	\$614,480	\$373,500	\$9,442	\$997,422	\$404,623	\$2,298	\$92,702	\$499,622	\$47,314	\$445,192	\$992,128

1/ Reimbursements include collections from RMOs, fines, penalties, interest, and a refund of \$104,000 for departmental management salaries and other administrative expenses.

2/ Includes monthly and retroactive benefit payments.

3/ Treatment expenditures include reimbursements to the United Mine Workers' Health and Retirement Funds.

**Table B-7**  
**Comparison of Benefit Payments Under the Black Lung**  
**Benefits Act (BLBA) Versus Payments for Permanent**  
**Total Disability Under Selected State Workers'**  
**Compensation Laws**  
**(As of September 30, 1996)**

<b>Benefit Under:</b>	<b>Maximum Monthly Benefit (Miners Only)</b>	<b>Maximum Monthly Benefit (Incl. Dependents)</b>	<b>Minimum Monthly Benefit (Miners Only)</b>
<b>BLBA</b>	\$ 435.10	\$ 870.20	\$ 435.10
Alabama	1,983.14	1,983.14	545.58 1/
Alaska	3,031.00	3,031.00	666.82 1/
Arizona	1,400.07	1,400.07	N/A
Arkansas	1,459.21	1,459.21	86.60
Colorado	2,028.35	2,028.35	N/A
Illinois	3,382.47	3,382.47	1,268.43
Indiana	1,853.24	1,853.24	216.50 1/
Iowa	3,780.09	3,780.09	662.49 1/
Kansas	1,463.54	1,463.54	108.25
Kentucky	1,801.02	1,801.02	360.21
Maryland	2,338.20	2,338.20	216.50 1/
Missouri	2,221.33	2,221.33	173.20
Montana	1,662.72	1,662.72	N/A
New Mexico	1,529.92	1,529.92	155.88 1/
North Dakota	1,675.71	1,675.71 2/	1,008.89 1/
Ohio	2,212.63	2,212.63	1,106.32 1/
Oklahoma	1,329.31	1,329.31	129.90 1/
Pennsylvania	2,281.91	2,281.91	1,267.74 1/
Tennessee	1,962.10	1,962.10	307.86
Texas	2,126.03	2,126.03	320.42
Utah	1,719.01	1,719.01 2/	194.85
Virginia	2,147.68	2,147.68	536.92 1/
Washington	2,716.70	2,716.70	185.00 3/
West Virginia	1,925.16	1,925.16	641.71
Wyoming	1,290.38	1,290.38	N/A

1/ Actual wage paid if less than monthly minimum.

2/ Additional weekly compensation is paid for each dependent, not to exceed the worker's net wage in North Dakota, and 85 percent of the state average weekly wage in Utah.

3/ Minimum compensation benefit ranges from \$185.00 to \$352.00, according to marital status and number of dependents.

N/A = Not Applicable